

~~SECRET~~

14 April 1971

*Postel*  
*jk*

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Basic and Geographic Intelligence  
FROM: Chief, Map Library Division, BGI  
SUBJECT: Map Procurement Consequences of Curtailment

25X1C

25X1C

25X1C

25X1C

25X1C

25X1C

25X1A

1. During recent years, through BALPA, OPRED, and other fiscal and personnel reduction programs applied to our Foreign Service, [REDACTED] and the map acquisition and reporting program which it symbolizes has taken a considerable buffeting. In the midst of such activities of defense of program, meetings and memoranda, at some point it should be pointed out simply and clearly that full and complete acquisition of up-to-date, foreign intelligence maps in an absolute "must" [REDACTED] and is basic to many [REDACTED] intelligence, research and operational activities. This was true in times past, as expressed by [REDACTED] in his writings, and it is true today. The current existence and use of sophisticated photography does not obviate the requirement for foreign intelligence maps, but rather intensifies the requirement. The successful use of photography, on a continuing basis, requires the enabling, locational and identification data frequently available only through the cartographic medium.

25X1C

25X1C

25X1C

25X1C

25X1C

[REDACTED] In order to meet that situation, the Map Library implements a continuing procurement program, which blends some priority procurement with a routine exploitation of foreign sources. The result is that all countries of the world are covered [REDACTED] on a continuing basis. A full, up-to-date, reference map collection is maintained as insurance against political, military and intelligence problems that may pop up at any time and in any country or area of the world. [REDACTED] the associated world-wide map procurement program, insure that those requirements may be met to the fullest extent possible.

25X1C

3. If this program is abolished or greatly reduced it will severely affect important intelligence programs [REDACTED] and within the Department of Defense mapping and intelligence agencies. These agencies MUST have accurate and current maps to accomplish priority and important programs and if the present program is not continued they will have to develop alternate methods of map procurement. It is extremely doubtful if this can be accomplished as effectively or efficiently and at

~~SECRET~~

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

**SECRET**

the present low cost to the U. S. Government; there will be duplication of effort and duplication of results. Maps cannot be produced instantaneously upon demand; they must be systematically produced in accordance with stated and anticipated requirements.

4. The following are several specific examples of intelligence and mapping programs that would have been impossible, greatly reduced, or far less accurate and timely if the regular flow of new and revised maps

25X1C

had been cut or restricted:

25X1C

25X1C

b. The White House Situation Room relies on the CIA Map Library to provide current maps to brief the President and his staff on CRISIS situations (Cuba, Congo, Nigeria, Cambodia, Vietnam, Pakistan, Middle East).

c. The emergency printing of large scale maps (1961-67) of the Dacca and Chittagong areas in East Pakistan by the Army Topographic Command to be used by contingency forces should the evacuation or protection of Americans be necessary.

25X1C

e. CIA map compilation and production by the OBGI Cartographic Division for the National Intelligence Survey, illustration of intelligence studies and support of covert operations rely almost exclusively on maps

25X1C

f. The latest foreign authoritative source (maps) providing geographic detail, relative and geographic locations and native language place names is essential to the special activities of the National Security Agency.

g. The unique and special needs for maps by the Deputy Director for Plans to support paramilitary operations, agent contacts, cashing, surveillance, escape and penetration operations, etc. are apparent. In some cases original copies of foreign produced maps are essential for the success of an operation.

25X1A

**SECRET**